

lost their lives at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. All of these people and their families are in our thoughts and prayers on this somber occasion.

Although there is little that we in Congress can do to ease those families' suffering, by adopting this resolution, we are reaffirming our commitment to honor the memory of the people who were lost that day, while also paying tribute to those individuals who unselfishly risked their own lives to protect others.

Mr. Speaker, September 11th was one of the most difficult days in American history. But in the darkness of that day, an incredible spirit of bravery and hope emerged. Hundreds of emergency rescue personnel descended upon the scene at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with the sole purpose of assisting others. At the same time, ordinary people demonstrated amazing courage by trying to help others escape while putting themselves in peril and in fighting back against the terrorists on United Flight 93. It is truly remarkable how many people gave their lives trying to protect others. The bravery and generosity of these people is a lasting mark of September 11th.

In responding to these extraordinarily trying times, the true fabric of American society was illustrated to the world. Americans around the world came together and generously gave of themselves in a myriad of ways. Rescue workers spent countless hours at ground zero searching for survivors and then shuffling through the debris. Construction workers, ironworkers and other personnel tirelessly worked their way through the wreckage in an effort to clean up the site. Their important task would not be interrupted by exhaustion, injury or inclement weather. However, far away from ground zero, and across the globe, people generously gave their time, energy, money and caring to help support the loved ones of the lost victims. Today, we honor these selfless contributions.

As we gather now, one year later, it is my hope that we never forget the spirit that pervaded this country in the weeks and months following the attacks. As we continue to rebuild and to heal, we will need to draw upon that strength. The American people demonstrated amazing resolve and resilience in the last year, and it is a resolve that we must continue to maintain, day by day, week by week, this year and for many years, that we will preserve our freedoms, protect our families, and work to cleanse the world of the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of September 11th, Congress rallied in a strong bipartisan manner to quickly pass legislative measures to protect our country. It was this remarkable unity of purpose that most struck me when I was sworn into this body in October of last year. Over time, this unity has dissipated some, but our goal should remain clear. We in Congress owe it to the American people to do all that we can to make sure that the necessary resources are available to protect our country. This is a serious responsibility and not one that should be burdened by partisan debate. In the coming months, we must act responsibly and decisively to ensure that the people of the United States once again feel safe in their own cities and towns. I commend the leadership of both the Republican and

Democratic parties for recognizing this important anniversary and for introducing this thoughtful resolution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF LA JARA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the town of La Jara, Colorado as a beacon of western spirit and pride for over a century. I am proud to have the pleasure of applauding a growing community that strengthens our society's values. The town is truly an inspirational token, established and sustained through determination and hard work and I am honored to pay tribute to the town today.

La Jara was incorporated on March 11, 1902 with Mayor Austin Valdez as the founding father and trailblazer for the town. La Jara settlers moved into the region to establish a better life and brought with them the vision and the tools to build a thriving community. La Jara's settlers first migrated West following the railroad and its expansionists prospects. The settlers lived in the region with no more than a few brick houses and a water tower and, although the lifestyle for each settler was hard and troublesome, the determination of those early pioneers laid the foundation that has upheld through the ages.

Initial settlement of the town is due in large to the San Luis Valley Company of the 1800s. In 1888, the company orchestrated a large sales campaign and sold numerous plots of land in La Jara. These plots motivated migrants to establish homes and settle the land in the valley, leading to a population boom by the 1890's. Today La Jara exists as an established town with all the essential functions and amenities of a metropolitan city.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my admiration and gratitude to the town and residents of La Jara, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Truly the seeds of success have been planted in La Jara and are bringing forth the best for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO KIM ROAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a longtime community leader in eastern Jackson County, MO, will be receiving the Citizen of the Year Award at the Truman Heartland Community Foundation annual benefit dinner. Mr. Kim Roam has demonstrated a strong commitment to the area and has helped to ensure a brighter future for the community.

Mr. Roam began his community activity in the county in 1983 after he joined the law firm Cochran, Oswald, McDonald Roam & Moore, P.C. Since that time he has served as Presi-

dent of the Blue Springs Jaycees, Chairman of the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce, Grain Valley School District Parent Teacher Support Board Member, the Valley Arts and Beautification Council Member and a member of the Grain Valley Optimist Club.

Mr. Roam has also enjoyed recognition for being spotlighted as Blue Springs' Outstanding Citizen of 1994, as Rotary Citizen of the Year 1995, and as co-recipient of the Commerce Bank William T. Kemper Foundation Blue Springs Community Service Award, which he shared with his spouse, Debbie.

Mr. Kim Roam has distinguished himself as a community leader in eastern Jackson County. He has and continues to make his friends and family proud. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Kim Roam and his family all the best.

COMMEMORATIVE JOINT MEETING
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES IN
REMEMBRANCE OF THE VIC-
TIMS AND HEROES OF SEP-
TEMBER 11, 2001, AND IN REC-
OGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND
SPIRIT OF THE CITY OF NEW
YORK, FEDERAL HALL, NEW
YORK, NY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER
6, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in the House and Senate in commemorating the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, during our special session of Congress held in Federal Hall in New York, New York.

On the days following the attacks on September 11th, Americans across the country came together to demonstrate the strength and resiliency of this great country. It is in that same spirit that we stand together today—both Republicans and Democrats—to reaffirm that strength and resiliency by showing a strong bipartisan expression that we are first and foremost Americans and are committed to protecting the freedoms and values that make this country great.

As we go through this week and revisit some of the darkest moments in our nation's history, we must remember that our nation has always been one that has triumphed over adversity. At times of great despair, America has consistently risen to its greatest hours.

In remembrance of those lives lost on September 11th and to heroes that emerged on that fateful day, I would like to close with some words from President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

"that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion . . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain . . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . . and that government of the people . . . by the people . . . for the people . . . shall not perish from the earth."

May God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DOROTHY "DOT"
B. THOMAS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dorothy "Dot" B. Thomas a Community Developer for Central Savannah River Area Economic Opportunity Authority (EOA) in Augusta, Georgia. Ms. Thomas is the recipient of Experience Works' 2002 Older Worker of the Year award for my home state of Georgia.

Dot Thomas began her career at the EOA in 1971. Beginning first as a Community Developer, she studied and worked her way up to the Coordinator of the Energy Assistance Program. In 1996 she retired, but soon found herself back at EOA volunteering, mentoring new staff, and offering friendly advice based on her many years of experience. She was so valuable to the EOA that when a part-time position became available in 2000, Dot was convinced to come back to work saying . . . "I so enjoy working, learning new things, and interacting with others that I sometimes wonder why I retired."

In her current position as Community Developer, Dot works with families in need—assisting them with energy assistance, food, rent, clothing, etc. She says her most important contribution at EOA is giving people hope. "I want them to feel better about themselves when they leave my office. Many times people come in looking so bad. But when I can say something to make them feel better about themselves and their circumstances, it just makes my day special!" Lola Johnson, director of the EOA, contributes Ms. Thomas' professional success to the heart and soul she puts into her work. "Of all the accomplishments Dot has made over her years of service to our agency and the Central Savannah River Area community, probably the most important and long-lasting ones involve the impact she has had on the clients we serve as well as on her co-workers."

Dot's dedication to improving the quality of people's lives doesn't end with her job. She loves and lends support to her husband of 50+ years, Ernest, and to the rest of her family; she makes a "joyful noise" in her church choir; and she volunteers at the local soup kitchen. She has also been an active member of the Georgia Community Action Association for more than 30 years. Ms. Johnson sums it up best, being a human services worker is not what Dot does for a living, "it's who Dot Thomas is."

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all Georgians in congratulating Dot Thomas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. ANTHONY
HOSPITALS' FLIGHT FOR LIFE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization that continuously renders emergency medical aid at a moments notice. The St. Anthony Hos-

pitals' Flight for Life program based in Denver, Colorado has saved thousands of lives since its inception. It is with great pleasure I stand and honor these courageous men and women who are so willingly dedicate their lives to help those in crisis.

Founded in 1972, Flight for Life was the first civilian emergency air ambulance in the nation. Some 200 air ambulance programs all over the world have since patterned their emergency response units after Flight for Life's excellence. This commendable program serves the people of Colorado and eight surrounding states, and its members have registered over 65,000 missions in the first 30 years of service. Over its history, Flight for Life's crews responded to the 1976 gondola accident in Vail, Colorado; the 1985 Keystone Teller Lift collapse; and the Columbine High School shootings in 2000, among the thousands of missions flown. Medical missions have taken them to 40 states as well as Canada, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

In order to meet each challenge, Flight for Life maintains an elite core of medical professionals and pilots; each one with specialized experience and that allows them to react professionally to any life-threatening experience in a variety of environments. To help in that mission, the program also maintains a mountain base outside the Denver Metro area, the highest medical helicopter base in the country, at the Summit Medical Center in Frisco, Colorado. From there, they operate a specialized avalanche rescue team and often help transport search teams to the scene. With so many professions ready to respond to any emergency situation, Flight for Life continues to stand out as a leader in emergency response excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to the men and women of this organization before this body of Congress and this nation. The Flight for Life program has raised the bar for emergency response throughout the world. These courageous professionals have served the people of this nation with distinction for 30 years and deserve our praise.

IN MEMORY OF SEPTEMBER 11
AND ITS FORGOTTEN VICTIMS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we are commemorating the terrible attack on America this past September 11. This was a terrible event in which about 3,000 people lost their lives. A year later, they are in our prayers.

Also in our prayers are the other victims—those who were subjected to violent, unfair attacks in the aftermath of September 11. One of these was Balbir Singh Sodhi, a gasoline station owner from Arizona. He was murdered at his gas station by someone who apparently mistook him for a follower of Osama bin Laden. His brother, Sukhpal Singh Sodhi, a cab driver in the San Francisco Bay area, was recently killed in his taxicab. I am sure that we would all like to extend our sympathies to the Sodhi family.

No one should be killed because of his religion. Even if Mr. Sodhi had been a Muslim

and a follower of bin Laden that would not justify murdering him. But what makes this crime even more disturbing is that this perception was a mistake. Mr. Sodhi was a Sikh, not Muslim.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion that believes in the equality of all people, including gender equality. It is not part of either Hinduism or Islam, yet because of the turbans they wear, which are required by their religion, Sikhs are sometimes mistaken for Muslim followers of bin Laden.

The violence has mostly ended, but there are still some unrelated violent incidents. Unfortunately, Balbir Singh Sodhi's brother was also killed just a couple of months ago in his taxicab outside San Francisco. I call for an end to all these attacks and for full and prompt prosecution of all the people responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's recent press release on the anniversary of September 11 into the RECORD at this time.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE KILLED IN LAST YEAR'S
ATTACK ON UNITED STATES

Sikhs Suffered the Most After the Attacks

Council of Khalistan Condemns Attacks,
Calls for End to Violence Against Minorities

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 11, 2002.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today remembered the attacks on America a year ago that killed almost 3,000 Americans. He also condemned the violence against Sikh Americans and other minorities that broke out in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

"On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, we remember with sadness and outrage the attacks on America a year ago and offer our prayers and sympathies on this sad anniversary to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States and for the loss of life it entails," Dr. Aulakh said. "We especially pray for the families of those who have departed."

"America must do what it can to eradicate terrorism from the world," Dr. Aulakh said. "We support all the efforts to do so and we must do our part as American citizens," he said. "This sad anniversary reminds us that we stand together as a nation. We must show unity on this occasion."

"We also condemn the violence against Sikhs and other minorities that took place last year after the September 11 attacks," Dr. Aulakh said. "Sikhs suffered the most in the post-September 11 violence," he said. "The very first victim of this violence was Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh gasoline station owner from the Phoenix area," he noted. Recently, his brother was killed in his taxicab. All this violence must stop," Dr. Aulakh said.

"Nobody should be killed for his or her religion, whether Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, or whatever religion one may follow," Dr. Aulakh said. "But it is important to note that Sikhs are not Muslims nor followers of bin Laden. We condemn bin Laden," he said. "Unfortunately, because of the turbans we are required to wear, many people mistake Sikhs for bin Laden followers," he said. "The Sikh religion is an independent, monotheistic, sovereign religion that believes in the equality of the whole human race, including gender equality," he said. "Daily we pray for the well being of the whole human race."

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, a couple of young Sikhs were attacked in